

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020820

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CARR, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PRESS SPOKESMAN COMMENT ON ARREST OF US
JOURNALISTS IN SOWETO

1. FYI. IN JANUARY 25 NOON BRIEFING, DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN STATED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD REGISTERED
PROTEST TO SAG OVER ARREST WITHOUT EXPLANATION
OF US NEWSMEN WHO WERE COVERING JANUARY 23 MEETING
IN SOWETO. DEPARTMENT HAS IN FACT NOT PROTESTED
INCIDENT AND NEEDS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN
ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER PROTEST WOULD BE
JUSTIFIED BY FACTS OF CASE.

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2. IN ORDER SET RECORD STRAIGHT AND DETERMINE
WHETHER OR NOT RAISING INCIDENT WITH SAG IS
JUSTIFIED, REQUEST FULL REPORT ON INCIDENT AND
EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION, IN VIEW OF RECORD ON
SIMILAR CASES IN THE PAST, AS TO APPROPRIATENESS
EITHER OF PROTEST OR LESS FORMAL DEMARCHE IN THIS
INSTANCE.

3. PLEASE REPLY SOONEST. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARRESTS, JOURNALISTS
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Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
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